



School Committee Meeting
ESSER Update & Navigating the Fiscal Cliff
November 16, 2022

AGENDA

- **ESSER – Where we started**
 - **What is it?**
 - **What principles were used for allocation?**
 - **What were our strategic priorities?**
- **ESSER – Where we currently are**
- **ESSER – Where we are going/navigating the fiscal cliff**
- **Next Steps**

ESSER – WHERE WE STARTED??



WHAT IS ESSER?

ESSER: SIDE-BY-SIDE		SchoolLinks	
	I	II	III
HOW MUCH?	\$13.5B	\$54.3B	\$123B
WHEN?	March 2020	December 2020	March 2021
WHICH STATUTE?	CARES	CRRSA	ARP
WHEN DOES IT 'KICK IN'?	March 13, 2020		
RELEASED TO STATES:	Spring 2020	January 5, 2021	March 24, 2020
DEADLINE TO AWARD:	Varies. Must be within one year of the initial award, so state deadlines are between April - June 2021.	January 5, 2022	Varies. SEAs must work to expedite the award of funds within 60 days of receiving them but ultimately have 1 year to award the funds.
DEADLINE TO OBLIGATE:	September 30, 2022	September 30, 2023	September 30, 2024

ESSER: SIDE-BY-SIDE

ESSER stands for Elementary and Secondary Education Relief funds. The intention is for districts to have financial support to address the learning loss caused by COVID and offer increased support for schools and their communities.

HOW MANY

WHEN?

WHICH

WHEN

RELEASE

DEADLINE

III

23B

March
2021

ERP

March 24,
2020

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funds.

DEADLINE TO OBLIGATE:

September
30, 2022

September
30, 2023

September
30, 2024

WHAT WERE THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PLANNING THE USE OF THESE FUNDS??????



Lowell Public Schools

Guiding Principles for ESSER II and III Resource Allocation

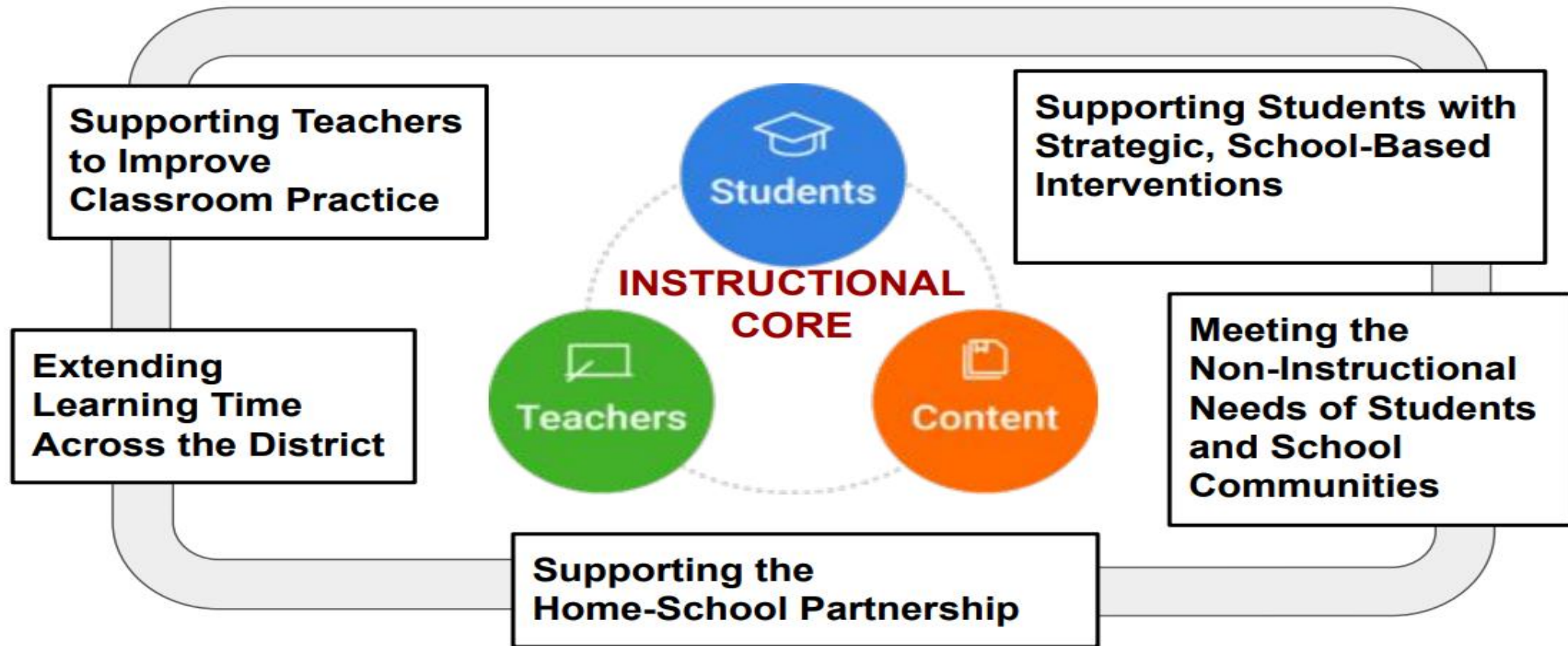
1. **Strategic Alignment.** Overcoming gaps in student learning due to COVID-19 will require multiple years of support and intervention that can only be accomplished through intentional and strategic alignment of priorities with the District's overarching plan for systemic improvement.
2. **Research Based.** Achieving the maximum benefit of each investment requires a disciplined approach toward implementation of interventions that are supported by empirical evidence.
3. **Focus on Equity.** The impact of COVID-19 has varied across students, schools and communities. Resources will be targeted toward students and schools with the greatest needs.
4. **Community Involvement.** Input, thought-partnering and feedback-gathering from the people who are closest to our children and know them by name, strength and need - parents, teachers, support staff and other stakeholders - is essential to building an effective plan for accelerating learning in the classroom.
5. **Responsible Fiscal Management.** ESSER II and III represent non-recurring revenue that will create a fiscal cliff for the District at the conclusion of the grant cycle. Mitigating the impact of this inevitable cliff requires a multi-year budget strategy with prioritization of high-impact, non-recurring investments.

What were our strategic priorities to be addressed with ESSER funding???



Lowell Public Schools

A Multi-Tiered Support System to Accelerate Student Learning



SUMMARY OF WHERE WE STARTED

- 1) We used our guiding principles such as research and a commitment to equity to help us build our plan to address learning loss through a multi-tiered support system to 1) support students with interventions such as mental health supplements and substitute supports, 2) meeting the non-instructional needs of students, 3) supporting the home school partnership, 4) extending learning time such as after school and summer school programming and 5) supporting teachers to improve classroom practice.
- 2) A comprehensive three year plan to accelerate learning and overcome COVID related learning loss through increased support for students and school communities was shared with the School Committee in April 2021 after developing the plans, hosting focus groups and forums and gathering input from staff, parents and communality groups. These plans were also shared with DESE.
- 3) We committed to constantly monitoring the funds to reallocate when nationwide supply and staffing shortages resulted in savings that could be reallocated.

ESSER – WHERE WE CURRENTLY ARE?



- We **constantly monitor and reallocate** when necessary due to savings or shortages (eg. Vacancy savings and bottled water examples)
- We consistently **use fund management** to ensure that we are spending first to expire funds. Since this is the second year of ESSER, we are now actively monitoring the spend rate to ensure timely and wise spending of this soon to expire funding source.
- We are **committed to reporting** and keeping the School Committee and public aware of the movement of ESSER funds.

ESSER UPDATED OCTOBER 2022

(Red costs more and green costs less than April 2022 estimates)

Sustainability of ESSER Investments

	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
	ESSER II	ESSER III	ESSER II	ESSER III	ESSER II	ESSER III
Strategic Interventions						
Mental Health Supplement: Cover 30 S/W	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 542,000.00	\$ 2,647,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000.00
Behavior Support Supplement: 22 PBRT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,892,000.00		\$ -	\$ 1,892,000.00
Behavior Support Supplement: 5 Asst Pri	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 554,000.00	\$ -	\$ 574,000.00
Renaissance Supplement: Asst Principals	\$ -	\$ 487,993.00				
Renaissance Supplements (various positix	\$ 825,006.00	\$ 238,299.00		\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00
Renaissance Supplements (paras)				\$ 1,395,000.00		\$ 1,395,000.00
Building Sub Supplements: Bdlq Based S	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 670,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 670,000.00
Bdlq Based Subs: Tutors			\$ 705,600.00			\$ 740,000.00
Building Sub Supplements: Paras			\$ 123,888.00			\$ 123,888.00
Increase Sub Rate	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,700,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,700,000.00
Increase SBB Pool: Yr 1 (25 S/W), YR 2 (5	\$ 2,513,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 3,338,006.00	\$ 726,292.00	\$ 5,633,488.00	\$ 4,646,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,144,888.00
Extended Learning						
Additional Learning Time: 2 days	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000.00
Pre-K Expansion (100 seat goal)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,250,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,250,000.00
Library Services - Staff	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000.00
Library Services - Supplies				\$ 1,500,000.00		\$ 1,500,000.00
After School/Summer School: Staff	\$ 1,587,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,700,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,700,000.00
After School/Summer School: Supplies &	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 700,000.00	\$ -	\$ 700,000.00
Transportation - Summer Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400,000.00
	\$ 2,087,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,650,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,050,000.00
Classroom Practice						
School Based PD (1 hr/wk)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Non Instructional						
Technology Purchases (Chromebooks 1 to	\$ 1,150,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Bottled Water Purchases (During Covid)	\$ 290,000.00	\$ 205,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Air Purifiers	\$ -	\$ 206,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
MTRS Fringe	\$ 443,000.00	\$ 1,185,144.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grant Indirect Charges	\$ 161,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Expand Transportation (HS)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000.00
SRG: Alternative Ed Expansion	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,243,027.00
OPM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 280,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Facility Investments (listed as PD under li	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,500,000.00	\$ 1,705,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 2,044,000.00	\$ 1,336,144.00	\$ 4,780,000.00	\$ 2,705,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,243,027.00
Totals						
	\$ 7,469,006.00	\$ 2,722,436.00	\$ 10,413,488.00	\$ 16,001,000.00	\$ -	\$ 21,443,315.00
		\$ 10,131,442.00		\$ 26,414,488.00		\$ 21,443,315.00
	\$ 4,337,042.00		\$ (1,682,616.00)		\$ (2,691,674.00)	
	<i>Higher</i>		<i>Less</i>		<i>Less</i>	

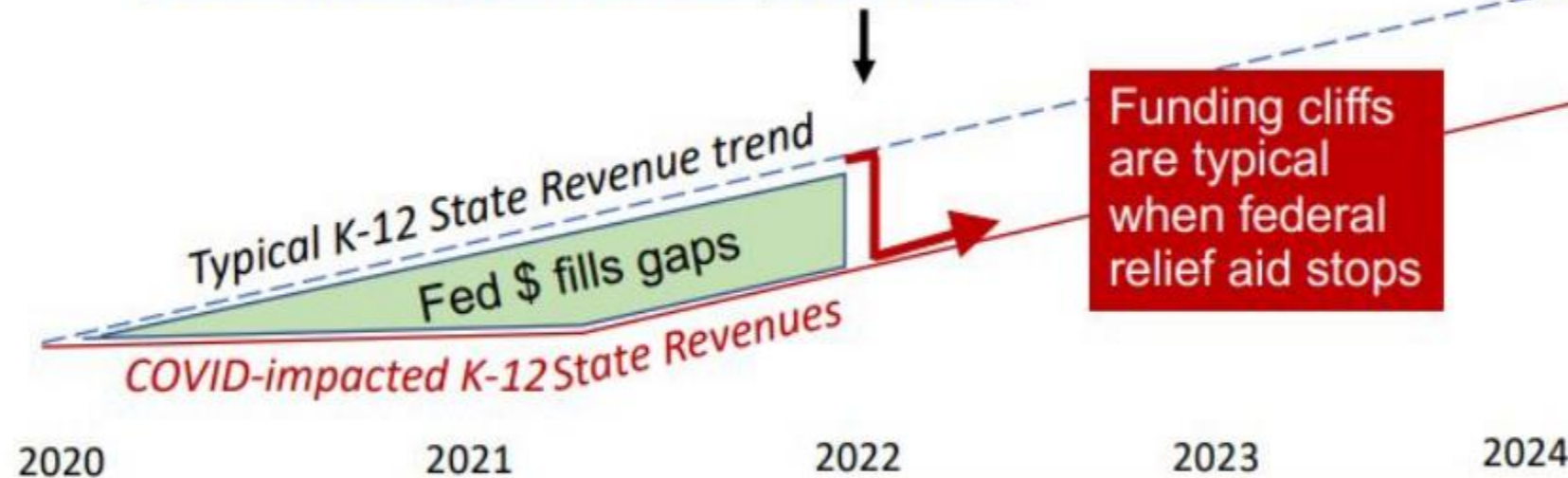
ESSER – WHERE WE ARE GOING??





ESSER grants are non-recurring and unlikely to be sustained with state or local revenue which can result in a “fiscal cliff”

Federal \$ enables districts to maintain cost structure, but eventually runs out



A multi-year funding strategy is required to minimize the impact of the reduction in federal aid and sustain support for students

COVID HITS!



Non-recurring \$ - if used responsibly - cannot be applied toward large-scale recurring costs such as salary increases or employee benefits



ESSER grants are non-recurring and unlikely to be sustained

with **WE KNEW THIS WAS COMING AND HAVE BEEN MINDFUL OF IT SINCE THE BEGINNING. WE HAVE BEEN CONSCIOUS OF PUTTING AS MANY RECURRING COSTS AS POSSIBLE ONTO THE GENERAL FUND AND USING THE ESSER DOLLARS FOR SHORT TERM AND NON-RECURRING COSTS.**

COVID HITS!



cannot be applied toward large-scale recurring costs such as salary increases or employee benefits

Navigating the Fiscal Cliff

	Year 1 (FY 21/22)		Year 2 (CURRENT = FY22/23)		Year 3 (FY23/24)		FY24/25 (No ESSER)	
	ESSER II	ESSER III	ESSER II	ESSER III	ESSER II	ESSER III		
Strategic Interventions								
Mental Health Supplement: Cover 30 S/W Yr 2 &	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 542,000.00	\$ 2,647,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	Sustained to SOA
Behavior Support Supplement: 22 PBR Teachers	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,832,000.00		\$ -	\$ 1,832,000.00	\$ 1,832,000.00	Sustained to SOA
Behavior Support Supplement: 5 Asst Principals	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 554,000.00	\$ -	\$ 574,000.00	\$ 574,000.00	Sustained to SOA
Renaissance Supplement: Asst Principals	\$ -	\$ 487,393.00						Moved to GF in FY23
Renaissance Supplements (various positions)	\$ 825,006.00	\$ 238,293.00		\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	Sustained to SOA
Renaissance Supplements (paras)				\$ 1,395,000.00		\$ 1,395,000.00	\$ 1,395,000.00	Sustained to SOA
Building Sub Supplements: Bdlg Based Subs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 670,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 670,000.00		Project Completion
Bdlg Based Subs: Tutors			\$ 705,600.00			\$ 740,000.00		Project Completion
Building Sub Supplements: Paras			\$ 123,888.00			\$ 123,888.00		Project Completion
Increase Sub Rate	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,700,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,700,000.00		Strategic Abandonment
Increase SBB Pool: Yr 1 (25 S/W), YR 2 (5 S/W)	\$ 2,513,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		Moved to GF in FY23
	\$ 3,338,006.00	\$ 726,292.00	\$ 5,633,488.00	\$ 4,646,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,144,888.00		
Extended Learning								
Additional Learning Time: 2 days	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000.00		Strategic Abandonment
Pre-K Expansion (100 seat goal)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,250,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,250,000.00	\$ 1,250,000.00	Sustained into SOA
Library Services - Staff	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	Sustained into SOA
Library Services - Supplies				\$ 1,500,000.00		\$ 1,500,000.00		Project Completion
After School/Summer School: Staff	\$ 1,587,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,700,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,700,000.00	\$ 1,700,000.00	Sustained into SOA
After School/Summer School: Supplies & CS	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 700,000.00	\$ -	\$ 700,000.00	\$ 700,000.00	Sustained into SOA
Transportation - Summer Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400,000.00		Strategic Abandonment
	\$ 2,087,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,650,000.00	\$ -	\$ 9,050,000.00		
Classroom Practice								
School Based PD (1 hr/wk)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Non Instructional								
Technology Purchases (Chromebooks 1 to 1)	\$ 1,150,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,550,000.00	Sustained into SOA
Bottled Water Purchases (During Covid)	\$ 230,000.00	\$ 205,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		Project Completion
Air Purifiers	\$ -	\$ 206,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		Project Completion
MTRS Fringe	\$ 443,000.00	\$ 1,185,144.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		Project Completion
Grant Indirect Charges	\$ 161,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		Project Completion
Expand Transportation (HS)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	Sustained into SOA
SRC: Alternative Ed Expansion	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,243,027.00	\$ 1,243,027.00	Sustained into SOA
OPM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 280,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		Project Completion
Facility Investments (listed as PD under line 4 ten	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,500,000.00	\$ 1,705,000.00	\$ -	\$ -		Project Completion
	\$ 2,044,000.00	\$ 1,396,144.00	\$ 4,780,000.00	\$ 2,705,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,243,027.00		
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		\$ 10,131,442.00		\$ 26,414,488.00		\$ 21,443,915.00		
	\$ 4,337,042.00		\$ (1,682,816.00)		\$ (2,691,874.00)			
	Higher		Less		Less			

NAVIGATING THE FISCAL CLIFF

- **WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR, REASSESS AND REALLOCATE TO ENSURE THAT WE FULLY EXPEND AND USE THE FUNDS WISELY.**
- **WE WILL CONTINUE TO USE FUND MANAGEMENT TO ENSURE THAT OUR DISTRICT IS GETTING THE MOST OUT OF ALL FUNDING SOURCES.**
- **WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROJECT AND ESTIMATE SOA TO PLAN AND MANAGE**

NEXT STEPS

- **Monitor the YTD Budget Reports for ESSER to ensure that the costs are hitting the grants**
- **Monitor the reimbursements to ensure that we are drawing down the funds in a timely manner**
- **Consistently prepare Expense X forms to get permission for facility projects (eg OPM was approved)**